

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRENDAN L. WILKINS,

Defendant.

CASE NO. CR19-0063-JCC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the Government's unopposed motion to seal Exhibits A & B to its sentencing memorandum (Dkt. No. 73).

The First Amendment protects the public's right of access to criminal trials. *See, e.g., Globe Newspaper Co. v. Super. Ct. for Norfolk Cnty.*, 457 U.S. 596, 606 (1982). The public also has a common law right to inspect and copy public records, including those from judicial proceedings. *See Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). But these rights are not absolute. They must yield when (1) sealing a document serves a compelling interest, (2) that is substantially likely to be harmed if the document is not sealed, and (3) there are no less restrictive alternatives for protecting the interest. *See United States v. Doe*, 870 F.3d 991, 998 (9th Cir. 2017).

Because the Exhibits contain Defendant's personal information, sealing them serves a compelling interest that is substantially likely to be harmed if they are not sealed, and no less

1 restrictive alternatives would protect the interest. Accordingly, the Court finds good cause to seal
2 the documents. The Government's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 73) is GRANTED. Exhibits A & B
3 (Dkt. No. 75) shall REMAIN sealed.

4 DATED this 4th day of March 2022.

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8 John C. Coughenour
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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